

from the circumstance of distance, be unable to administer and overlook all the details necessary for the good government of the citizens and the same circumstance, by rendering detection impossible to their constituents, will invite the public agents to corruption, plunder and waste. And I do verily believe that if the principle were to prevail of a common law being in force in the United States (which principle possesses the general government at once of all the powers of the State governments) it would become the most corrupt government on the earth. * * * What an augmentation of the field, for jobbing, speculating, plundering, office-building and office-hunting would be produced by an assumption of all the State powers into the hand of the general government! The true theory of our Constitution is surely the wisest and best, that the States are independent as to everything within themselves and united as to everything respecting foreign nations. Let the general government be reduced to foreign concerns only, and let our affairs be disentangled from those of all other nations, except as to commerce, which the merchants will manage, the better the more they are left free to manage for themselves, and the general government may be reduced to a very simple organization and a very inexpensive one. (To Gideon Granger, 1800. F. VII., 451.)

STATUES.—A statue is not made, like a mountain, to be seen at a great distance. To perceive those minuter circumstances which constitute its beauty you must be near it, and, in that case, it should be so little above the size of the life as to appear actually of that size from your point of view. (Written from Paris to the Virginia delegates in Congress, 1784. F. IV., 74.)

SUBPOENAS.—I did not see till last night the opinion of the judge on the *subpoena duces tecum* against the President. Considering the question there as *coram non ftdice*, I did not read his argument with much attention. Yet I saw readily enough, that, as is usual where an opinion is to be supported, right or wrong, he dwells much on smaller objections, and passes over those which are solid. Laying down the position everenerally. that all persons owe obedience to subpoenas, he